

Art Unit: 1763

CLM-PTO

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Claims 1-28 are canceled.

29. An extruder transition section, comprising an enclosed discharge chamber defined by a first sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions toward a discharge port and a shaft that extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends through said second sectioning wall.

30. The extruder transition section of claim 29, wherein said section connects a first compounding apparatus to a second compounding apparatus.

31. The extruder transition section of claim 30, wherein said shaft is common to said first compounding apparatus and to said second compounding apparatus.

32. The extruder transition section of claim 31, further comprising disconnectable couplings that permit said first compounding apparatus to be disconnected from said second compounding apparatus.

33. (new) An extruder transition section, said extruder transition section connecting an upstream compounding apparatus and a downstream compounding apparatus, said extruder transition section comprising an enclosed discharge chamber defined by a first

sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions toward a discharge port and a shaft that extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends through said second sectioning wall.

34. (new) An extruder transition apparatus according to claim 33 wherein said shaft is common to said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus.

35. (new) An extruder transition apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising disconnectable couplings that permit said upstream compounding apparatus to be disconnected from said downstream compounding apparatus.

36. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have co-rotating, intermeshing double screw configurations.

37. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 36 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.

38. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have counter-rotating, non-intermeshing double screw configurations.

39. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 38 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.

40. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have reciprocating single screw configurations.

41. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 40 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.

42. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have non-reciprocating single screw configurations.

43. (new) An extruder transition section according to claim 42 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.